

war, representing the terrible close of the battle of Trafalgar, and the effects of British cannon, mortars, balls, &c., which, with an anchor, cable, and ships' trophies, terminate the other extremity of the pediment. Had this work been executed in marble it would have required ten years in labour, and as many thousand pounds to purchase the marble; whereas, in the present instance, the expense was moderate, and the time did not amount to two years. In addition to the few examples referred to in Mr. Fowler's paper, such as the screen in St. George's Chapel, Windsor, there are also various statues in the chapel, as well as arms on the barracks: also at York, Northampton, Exeter, &c., and on the late guard-house of old Buckingham Palace, long since removed, and the barracks throughout Scotland, various works in Dublin and other parts of Ireland, arms to many of the public halls in London; at the Pelican, Albion, and British Fire Offices, the statue of Geo. IV., sixteen feet high, on Lincoln Heath, also of General Lord Hill at Shrewsbury, the numerous figures ornamenting the grounds of *Alton Towers*, the naval column to Nelson at Montreal, in Canada, &c., &c., as well as in America, Petersburg, Poland, and the West India Islands, and other places abroad, with the more modern examples at home, such as the figures surmounting the centre pediment of Buckingham Palace, and those lately removed from the wings (making way for the new façade), also the Corinthian capitals and the rich sculptured frieze surrounding the building, the military trophies, &c., &c., with an endless variety of arms, fountains, &c., &c. None of these have shown any symptoms of decay, even in the extreme points of the foliage; and undoubtedly, if under the control of proper management, with a thorough knowledge of its component parts (such as were used at Coade's works), and attention to a proper consistence of drying before burning, the material is worthy of much more attention from our architects than has hitherto (of late years) fallen to its lot.

T. H.

THE COMPETITORS FOR DRAINING LONDON.

A MEETING of some of the competitors invited by the late Commissioners of Sewers to send in designs for the drainage of London, and their friends, was held at Morley's Hotel, Westminster, on Monday, the 15th inst., when we understand it was resolved,—

"That a communication be made to the Commissioners of Sewers expressing the sentiments of this meeting, that to withhold all prize, reward, or employment from those whose designs were considered worthy of honourable and distinctive mention, is a departure from the promises held out to the competitors, and from the accepted terms upon which all professional competition has hitherto been encouraged, and it is hoped that it will not now be deemed too late to perform an act of simple justice by which merit will be rewarded and future competition stimulated." We cordially echo the spirit of the resolution.

FORM OF HOUSE-ROOFS.

I HAVE been a housekeeper nearly thirty years, during which time I have lived in many mansions, and had the misfortune to build one on my own account. I have no great cause to complain of *smoky chimneys*, but I have one which always smokes in a particular wind, and my architect having made it very lofty and rising from a ridge, I often speculate upon the means of cure, but do not venture to attempt any, having the fear of scaffold poles and broken slates before my eyes—for getting to it by a ladder is out of the question.

Although I have built a house, I have but a rude idea of construction, and cannot understand why the roof should, as a matter of course, consist of ridge and valley, impracticable, or nearly so, to the foot of any one but a Slater; and when, in these sanitary times, I reflect that four things are very desirable in a house, viz. freedom from smoke, proper ventilation, all rain-water to pass through the house, using what is wanted and flushing the drains with the remainder, and the means of readily and effectually sweeping the chimneys,

I cannot see why all roofs of dwelling-houses, and particularly in streets where ornamental gables and other roof ornaments are out of the question, should not be perfectly flat; and now that we have various materials to choose from, all difficulty to my mind is removed, and if ever I build again I will have a flat roof.

I have mentioned my ungettable smoky chimney, and I have besides been put to a great expense in first carrying all the rain-water off the roof, and, secondly, in bringing it back again; for, as my architect made me pay for his fancy of an *Italian villa* (and a precious blunder it is, every one abusing it), my eaves hang over about a yard all round, so that I have had to pay for some 300 or 350 feet of gutters and spouting, always choking with sparrows' nests, &c., and as I want the rain-water for the bath and closets, I have had to lead it all back again by all sorts of *circum-bendish*, as Dr. Dilworth would say.

PATER FAMILIAS.

PAYMENT OF SURVEYORS, &c., BY LOCAL HEALTH-BOARDS.

BURNHAM.

PERMIT me once more to direct the attention of your readers, especially those who are rate-payers in provincial towns, to the mode in which the "Public Health Act, 1848," is about to be carried out by some of the local boards.

The Burnham Local Board, to wit, offer, by advertisement in your paper and elsewhere, the magnificent premium of 20*l.* for the best plan, estimate, and specification, for draining the town of Burnham, and for supplying it with good water; and even this burst of liberal feeling towards a highly respectable and scientific profession is not unrequited, since the board reserves to itself the right of rejecting all the plans sent in, and the money will not be paid until after the approval of the local board: the plan shall be sanctioned by the "General Board of Health."

Now, Sir, I apprehend it is not requisite to possess professional knowledge to discover that, in order to do properly, or even inefficiently, what is required to be done at Burnham, an engineer or surveyor must incur considerable expense; he must make sufficient research in the neighbourhood to become acquainted with the sources of water supply; he must possess himself with a tolerably accurate map of the district before he can pretend to estimate, even approximately, the probable cost of his scheme; and, as a *sine quâ non*, he must procure a correct section of the levels of the district before he can step an inch in the path of his undertaking.

All these conditions being obvious, I would ask you, Sir, is it likely a gentleman competent to their fulfilment will go to Burnham, or even give to the business the requisite time in his office, with the mere chance that if an incompetent tribunal (I say it respectfully, it is not to be supposed that a committee of private gentlemen and tradesmen can determine upon the best plan of carrying out a work of this kind) shall pronounce his plan the best, and only then, he is to be repaid a portion of his costs out of pocket. I think, Sir, we may safely assume such a gentleman will not respond to the advertisements of the Burnham Local Board, but that he will rather do as I am free to confess I am doing,—sit in his office, waiting for the good time that's coming, than to assist, by any act of his, in propagating a state of things only equalled by the position of a journeyman clergyman in the time of Charles the Second.

Having said thus much on the results to the members of my profession, let us consider a few of the consequences likely to result to the ratepayers of Burnham from the manner in which their representatives at the Local Board of Health have, in their collective wisdom, thought proper to deal with this business.

First, I am not at all prepared to say, being totally unacquainted with Burnham, that if this work had been let by tender, the first cost would have much exceeded the 20*l.* now offered. Many clever men will often work assiduously for a small certainty, who would turn with contempt and disgust from a lottery such as the one contemplated; so that the first outlay might not have been increased, and the Board might have satisfied itself of the competency of the applicant before he had been asked to expend one penny in the service, beyond the postage of, and paper upon which he wrote, his tender. Secondly, as to more important results, let us suppose that the best plan proposed by this competition contemplates the laying down of 12-inch water-pipes where 10 would be sufficient, 10 where 8 would answer, 8 where 6, and 6 where 4 would do: without pursuing the subject farther and calculating on the present London price of iron pipes, five guineas per ton, it is easy to discover the result.

I have now before me a plan and estimate I have

recently most carefully prepared for the drainage and water supply of a provincial town,—I should imagine a parallel case with the one upon which we are now discussing:—

My 10-inch pipe will cost, including laying, about £490 0 0
Were this 12-inch, it would cost, 656 0 0

£166 0 0

The 8-inch will cost about £1,261 0 0
The 10-inch would be 1,625 0 0

£364 0 0

The 6-inch will cost about £325 0 0
The 8-inch would be 485 0 0

£160 0 0

The 4-inch will cost about £830 0 0
The 6-inch would be 1,300 0 0

£470 0 0

So that in this town an erroneous theory would involve an additional outlay in the first case of £166 0 0
In the second 364 0 0
In the third 160 0 0
In the fourth 470 0 0

£1,160 0 0

in the pipes for water supply alone, to say nothing about the drainage, in which the relative cost of pipes of 9 inches and 18 inches bore are about as 1 to 4.

EDWARD RYDE.

BOOKS.

A Letter to Lord John Russell, on the Future Location of the National Gallery and Royal Academy. London: Parker, 1850.

THE object of this letter by Mr. John Doyle, which is both fairly and clearly written, is to urge the removal of the National Gallery, from its present location, to a more eligible site, leaving the present building wholly to the uses of the Royal Academy and its exhibitions and lectures. After pointing out various reasons why the national pictures should not be longer allowed to remain where they are, on the one hand, and on the other, why the present galleries should be retained for the annual exhibition of modern pictures, and the schools and lectures of the Academy, Mr. Doyle proceeds to review some of these former reasons briefly, as follows, at the same time pointing out what he conceives to be a proper site for the national pictures:—

"Now comes the important inquiry,—What ought to be the site of the new and permanent National Gallery? I have endeavoured to show that the vicinity of a great thoroughfare in the heart of the metropolis is not appropriate—that for the due preservation of the pictures, the interest and extension of the Institution itself, and the better diffusion of its beneficial influences, it is expedient that it should be removed at least a short distance from the noise, turmoil, dust, and smoke inseparable from such a locality, and placed in circumstances as far as possible harmonizing with its high purposes. If, my lord, I apprehend rightly, no situation will be found to meet, in all respects, those requirements so well as Kensington Gardens, and more particularly the site on which the palace stands. This latter, when it comes to be examined, will be found not only free from every objection which attaches to Trafalgar-square, but to possess all the recommendations which the most scrupulous judgment could exact. Placed near the town's western extremity—between its two principal thoroughfares, which here approximate so as almost to embrace it, and from which it is just sufficiently separated to protect it from those annoyances attendant upon a too close approximation to a great highway—accessible with all desirable facility by the public conveyances, now brought within the means of the humblest—approached through the parks and its own grounds by the most beautiful walks—a spot visited by all for its own sake, and to which we would with most pride and pleasure conduct the footsteps of a stranger,—whether looked at with reference to architectural purposes, its agreeable associations, its pure atmosphere, or its general convenience it will, if I mistake not, be found unexceptionable. With reference to architectural purposes, there can scarcely be imagined a nobler site for a public building. The praise bestowed by the committee upon Trafalgar-square is, as it appears to me, far more justly due to this part of Kensington Gardens; for here no incongruities, no deformed masses of brick and mortar mar the architect's efforts and offend the critic's eye—while Nature herself, under the skilful guidance of the